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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIGA 000410

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/29/2017
TAGS: [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [NATO](#) [AF](#) [LG](#)
SUBJECT: LATVIA HAS STRONG INTEREST IN ISAF OMLT

REF: STATE 71547

Classified By: Charge d'affaires Tamir G Waser. Reason: 1.4(D)

(C) DATT discussed reftel request for contributions to ISAF with Latvian CHOD BG Maklakovs and his staff on May 25. Maklakovs expressed Latvia's strong interest in providing an OMLT to ISAF in Mazaar e-Sharif and said Latvia was already investigating how to make this happen. This would operationally link the Latvians to their other soldiers working in the Norwegian PRT located in Meymana. Maklakovs expressed frustration, however, that repeated attempts to engage SHAPE for specific equipment and training requirements have not yielded the information needed to prepare his soldiers for deployment and has asked the DATT for assistance. The Latvian end-goal is to substantially increase their presence in the north over the next year with the hope of eventually fielding a combined-arms QRF in the province. The Latvian military leadership views this as a milestone that will serve as impetus for improving their inter-operability with NATO forces.
WASER